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More than 100 world leaders head for Copenhagen

Social Summit to set deadlines on poverty

World leaders will set deadlines for the outright eradication of extreme poverty in their countries, according to a historic agreement expected to be approved in March at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The poverty pledge — one of nine draft political "commitments" to promote social development — grew out of two weeks of difficult, sometimes wrenching, Preparatory Committee negotiations among more than 160 countries. The talks ended 28 January at United Nations Headquarters.

The measure would also commit leaders to formulating or strengthening national plans to "substantially reduce" overall poverty "in the shortest possible time".

"This is the first time in history that we have a political acknowledgement that the eradication of poverty has to be the first priority of any society," said the Chairman of the Summit Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Juan Somavía of Chile.

Previous international poverty agreements have stopped short of calling for the "eradication" of any category of poverty, and have not set targets or timetables.

Acknowledging that poverty, unemployment and social disintegration "too often result in isolation, marginalization and violence", negotiators formulated a pledge from world leaders "to eradicate absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context".

The World Bank has defined "absolute poverty" as the condition of an individual who survives on an income of US$1 a day or less. On a qualitative scale, Social Summit officials state that there is broad agreement that extreme poverty is the result of an absence of basic human requirements, notably safe

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Sharp focus on development at GA

"The promotion of world development is the most important task facing the United Nations," General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) said at the Assembly's 49th session. Progress in that direction was led by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's *An Agenda for Development* and "bold proposals" for structural reform of the United Nations in reviewing the work of the September-December 1994 Assembly, Mr. Essy said.

Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal), Chairman of the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social affairs, agreed that consideration of the the Secretary-General's report moved development concerns higher on the UN's agenda.

"We lament the fact that the United Nations continues to deal more with peace-keeping and security than with development and the underlying causes of conflicts," Mr. Cissé told *Development Update*, speaking from the point of view of developing countries and especially of Africa. "But consideration of *An Agenda for Development* is helping to bring more balance to its mission."

Mr. Matsushiro Horiguchi, Minister at the Japanese Mission to the UN and a member of the Second Committee, which considers economic matters, reported that the 49th session was "quieter but more productive" than previous sessions, with fewer North-South conflicts. *An Agenda for Development* is important, he said, because it is catalyzing serious discussion of post-Cold War development strategies and revitalization of the United Nations role.

The Assembly debated the latest recommendations of the Secretary-General's report at a special 21-22 November plenary session (see *Development Update* #6), with wide agreement that priority attention should go to the eradication of poverty and the development needs of Africa. Many developed countries, including the United States, Japan and Australia, supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that an extended bureau of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meet intersessionally to provide policy guidance. But Algeria, speaking for the Group of 77 developing

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Biodiversity advances in the Bahamas

Consensus on an administrative framework and a three-year work programme of work for implementing the international convention that seeks to protect the diversity of biological species was reached at the first meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) in Nassau, Bahamas, late in 1994, but a decision on funding sources for the programme was postponed.

Nearly 80 national Ministers and senior Government officials, environmentalists and non-governmental organization representatives approved the work plan at the first session of States that have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Convention has been ratified by 106 countries, mostly from the developing world. It commits nations to: preserve the diversity of genetic material within species, especially in micro-organisms, in which variations are the widest and account for many useful biotechnological applications; guard animal and plant species from extinction; and conserve complex ecosystems such as those found in rain forests, grasslands and coral reefs. The Convention also calls for an equitable sharing of the benefits of biological diversity.

No progress on logging

A number of difficulties over how to apply the principles on conservation, sustainable development and the equitable sharing of benefits were not resolved at the 28 November - 9 December meeting.

There was no discussion, for instance, of the issue of protecting forests from commercial logging. Conservationists want immediate steps taken to control and reduce logging, especially of hardwood tropical forests. But developing countries that depend on this activity as a major source of export earnings first want a firm commitment that financial resources for economic diversification will be provided to off ·t their losses.

Little headway was made on a proposed biosafety protocol. According to Mr. Law Hieng Ding, Malaysian Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment, "such a legal instrument is necessary to protect States that have weak or no biosafety regulations from becoming the testing grounds for genetically-modified organisms by multinational corporations."

Transfer of technologies

Much of the discussion centred on treaty provisions for sharing the benefits of commercial exploitation of genetic resources. Developing countries want royalities paid for raw materials and traditional knowledge that contribute to the production of high-priced pharmaceuticals, genetically-engineered seeds and other biotechnology products from the industrialized countries. "Paradoxically, access to and transfer of technologies, in particular of biotechnologies, may represent a heavy burden for developing countries, if there are no adequate mechanisms to protect intellectual property rights of the farmers, indigenous people and traditional lifestyle of local communities," said Mourad Ahmia of Algeria, representing the Group of 77 developing countries (G-77) at the talks.

These areas of unfinished business will be taken up at a second meeting, from 6 to 17 November 1995 in Bali, Indonesia. The question of funding for the medium-term work programme will also be discussed at this meeting.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), a fund established prior to Earth Summit, was designated the interim funding mechanism for the Convention, and the secretariat was instructed to prepare a report on other sources of funding, including the feasibility of a new fund. Donor countries had favoured making the GEF the permanent financial structure for the Convention. The G-77, however, said it would accept the GEF only as an interim mechanism until new and additional resources are provided, as agreed to in Rio.

The UN Environment Programme was designated the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention. ■

Habitat II drafts action plan

A draft of the Global Plan of Action for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — also known as Habitat II — is being prepared for review at the 24 April - 5 May Preparatory Committee meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

Habitat II will initiate worldwide action to improve shelter and living environments, and will focus on the rapid growth and burgeoning needs of the world's cities. Three quarters of all population growth currently is taking place in urban areas, according to the Habitat II secretariat, and there is resulting pressure on urban infrastructure, services, housing and the environment.

"The Plan of Action will bring the issues together right where people live, right where they must be solved, in their homes," Dr. Wally N'Dow, Secretary-General of Habitat II, told *Development Update*.

An innovative feature of the draft Plan of Action is a section on "Best Practices" — problem-solving schemes that some communities have found useful and may be helpful to other communities facing similar problems. The Municipality of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates is sponsoring an international conference on such practices 2 - 5 April, prior to the Nairobi PrepCom. Success stories from nine cities in developing countries and nine cities in industrialized countries will be showcased.

Habitat II will take place 3-14 June, 1996, in Istanbul, Turkey, 20 years after the first UN Conference on Human Settlements was held in Vancouver, Canada.

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Aid for commodity diversification sought

UN's Africa agenda: urgent attention

A General Assembly resolution urging donor countries to support African efforts to diversify commodities is "a first step towards implementing" the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (NADAF), according to Tunisian Ambassador Slaheddine Abdellah, speaking on behalf of the African group. There are "high hopes", he said, that it will lead to "concrete measures".

The African group, however, has expressed concern about overall prospects for implementing the UN's agenda for economic recovery in Africa.

The initial draft of the resolution had asked donors to commit $50-75 million in new and additional resources to a fund within the African Development Bank (ADB) that would support early stages of diversification projects. Commodity diversification — the ability to produce and export a wider range of goods, as well as to carry out value-added processing of raw materials before they are exported — is considered crucial to Africa's economic recovery because many of its countries depend on only one or two export items. The slide in prices of primary commodities like cotton, cocoa, coffee and copper during the 1980s is a major cause of Africa's ongoing economic crisis.

NADAF goals unmet

But the resolution text was diluted over the course of prolonged informal consultations running concurrent with the General Assembly, during which donor countries stated opposition to a new institutional facility. The central recommendation finally adopted was for donors to "consider urgently making an initial adequate special contribution" to financing preparatory phases of African diversification projects and programmes through the African Develop-ment Fund of the ADB.

The proposal for a diversification fund was first put to donors during 1991 negotiations to establish NADAF. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's 1993 report on progress under NADAF discussed the need and feasibility of such a fund in greater detail, suggesting a capitalization of $50-$75 million.

Issues dear to Africa seem destined for abandonment at the end of each General Assembly.

—Ambassador René Valéry Mongbe of Benin

Adopted by the General Assembly in 1991, NADAF calls for stringent economic and political reforms to be undertaken by African governments, supported by rising inflows of aid and private investment, so as to achieve six per cent average annual growth among African countries. Responding to the Secretary-General's 1993 review, speakers in the Assembly stated that sweeping reforms were under way in numerous African countries, but that higher levels of assistance and investment had failed to materialize and economic growth was far below the target rate. Hopes for assistance were then pinned on the proposed diversification fund.

At early 1994 informal consultations that often grew heated, an African delegate told donor country representatives that they might as well "put NADAF in its grave" if support for commodities diversification was not forthcoming.

Donor countries called for further consultations, based on feasibility reports from the World Bank and the ADB. But these consultations never took place, according to Benin's Permanent Representative René Valéry Mongbe. He said in 1994 plenary debate that issues "dear to Africa" seem destined for abandonment at the end of each General Assembly.

Algerian Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, speaking for the Group of 77 developing countries and China, told the 1994 General Assembly that it was the "absence of political will" that was delaying the setting up of a fund which would be "the first concrete implementation of UN-NADAF."

Donor countries, however, restated their opposition to any special diversification fund. The European Union believes that diversification should rely on existing financing mechanisms, Germany's Wolfgang Runge told the 1994 General Assembly. And funding for feasibility studies — the major use to be made of the proposed fund — is not as important as African governments going further with market-friendly policies, he added.

Compromise reached

With African delegates worried that failure to reach consensus on a resolution would stall progress on a diversification fund until after the 1996 mid-term evaluation of NADAF, a compromise was forged that fell short of African goals.

The resolution adopted by the 1994 Assembly also invited further "serious consideration" of an international conference on Africa's external debt, but US delegate Victor Marrero reiterated his country's opposition to the idea, claiming that "many African countries had benefited" from a case-by-case approach.

Even if donors follow through with special contributions to the African Development Fund, there are obstacles ahead, according to the UN newsletter *Africa Recovery*. The Fund, the concessional arm of the ADB, has been without financial resources since January 1994, when its seventh replenishment (FAD-VII) was due. African ADB members had proposed a $2.4 billion replenishment. But powerful non-African members are holding back on commiting new funds until a dispute over ADB lending policies has been resolved. Resolution of the dispute may have to wait until ADB's next meeting in June. ■

Children's Summit follow-up on target

Most of the world's developing countries are on course to achieve most of the goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children, according to UNICEF's latest review.

World leaders attending the Summit vowed to reduce childhood deaths by half and malnutrition by one third, bring measles and diarrhoea under control, eradicate polio and ensure that at least 80 per cent of children would complete primary school — all by the year 2000. *The State of the World's Children 1995* reports significant practical progress in reaching these goals, as well as attaining mid-term objectives targeted for the end of this year.

On a bleaker note, the review cites civil war in Rwanda as the latest "in what appears to be an increasingly frequent series of catastrophes for children". The report continues: "At one time, wars were fought between armies; but in the wars of the last decade far more children than soldiers have been killed and disabled."

Just as disastrous for children, according to the review, is the continued marginalization of the poorest nations, as well as marginalization of the poor within both developed and developing nations. "An underclass is being created," it says, "undereducated and unskilled, standing beneath the broken bottom rung of social and economic progress."

Mid-term scorecard

Nevertheless, general standards of living for children are on the upswing, according to the late UNICEF Executive Director James Grant. Progress towards the Summit's mid-term objectives means that by 1995 "about 2.5 million fewer children will be dying every year from malnutrition and disease and at least three quarters of a million fewer children each year will be disabled, blinded, crippled or mentally retarded", Mr. Grant said when the report was released in December. Mr. Grant died in January (see below).

Progress towards 1995 objectives was recorded in the following areas:

- All 94 countries where a lack of iodine in the diet causes problems that range from impaired physical and mental development to extreme mental retardation have taken large-scale measures to put iodine in table salt.
- Vitamin A-deficiency, which can lead to increased illness, blindness and death, has been virtually eliminated in 35 out of 67 affected countries. Two thirds of all children at risk live in those 35 nations.
- The fight against malnutrition is one of the greatest challenges taken up at the Summit. Information from 87 developing countries indicates that 21 are likely to reduce child malnutrition by 20 per cent.
- After a big push to achieve immunization rates of at least 80 per cent by 1990, countries have managed to sustain the rate, which was the goal set for 1995.
- To promote breastfeeding, all but one of 72 developing countries where commercial milk formulas were being distributed in maternity wards have stopped this practice.
- Fifty-five nations had stated their intent to meet the end-of-the-decade goal of eradicating polio five years ahead of time, and 43 of those countries are on track to succeed.
- A majority of the developing nations are likely to reduce deaths from measles by 95 per cent (compared with pre-immunization levels).
- Seventeen nations have already reached the goal of an 80 per cent use rate of oral rehydration therapy (ORT), an inexpensive means of preventing often-fatal diarrhoeal dehydration; seven are close and 44 are well on track.
- According to a mid-1994 review by UNICEF, 42 of 95 countries have reached or are on schedule to reach the 1995 goal of a one-third reduction in the gap between 1990 primary school completion rates and the 80 per cent rates targeted for the year 2000.

A clearcut linkage between planning and follow-through is in large part responsible for fulfilment of the Summit's goals, the report makes clear.

The targets discussed and agreed to at the conference were measureable and tied to a clear timetable. They were also what the report terms "doable". Many of the techniques required, such as ORT and iodized table salt, are relatively inexpensive and simple to implement.

Pains were taken to secure and sustain a high-level of political commitment, while simultaneously mobilizing support from the mass media, schools, businesses, religious groups, non-governmental organizations and the general public.

Finally, the United Nations and its agencies, as well as bilateral assistance programmes, monitored progress and helped countries reach the goals.

For more on Children's Summit follow-up, see interview next page. ■

James Grant, the former Executive Director of UNICEF, died on 28 January 1995. He had resigned on 23 January because of illness. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said, on the occasion of Mr. Grant's death, that "there are hundreds of millions of children in the developing world who may never know the name of James P. Grant, but whose survival, health, growth and education have benefited, practically and measurably, from his extraordinary efforts on their behalf".

Richard Jolly: UN conferences need 20/20 vision

Interview with UNICEF Acting Executive Director Richard Jolly:

Development Update: Impressive progress has been made towards the objectives of the 1990 Children's Summit. What are the lessons of this success?

Richard Jolly: Number one, that goals can work. Two, they are best set out as a limited number of clear, political commitments by heads of State with the support of the public. Thirdly, they should be framed in terms of countries, and National Programmes of Action drawn up, as was done for the Children's Summit. Next, the UN family needs to be involved. In the case of the Social Summit goal of reducing poverty, for instance, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) resident coordinator in each country could bring the various international agencies together to decide how to support the national Government. And progress should be monitored closely.

DU: This approach seems to have been adopted at the 1994 Population Conference.

Jolly: The Cairo Conference had its own brilliance, especially in placing women in leadership roles, involving non-governmental organizations and bringing alive the connections between personal values and development issues. But it's true, the Population Conference focused clearly on goals. And it emphasized that fulfilling goals has to be a national process.

DU: These are similarities in format. What about linkages in content between the Children's Summit and the Population Conference?

Jolly: The vision of Cairo is that we can stabilize population growth only if family planning is tied to a holistic approach to women and development, to reproductive health and to a better situation and reduced mortality for children. The latter is key because, in most developing countries, children who grow up to be income-earners are the parents' social security for old age. Greater confidence that children's lives will be protected gives parents more confidence to plan for smaller families.

DU: Many developing countries have undertaken stringent structural adjustment programmes and most are coping with stagnant or falling levels of international assistance. Doesn't this hurt their ability to raise standards of living?

Jolly: There are countries that adopted very tough economic policies *and* raised living standards. Indonesia in 1969 is one example. But we mustn't forget that many of the current success stories, like Thailand, Korea, India and Taiwan, received a lot of aid in the '50s and '60s. In the current period, the best we can realistically hope for is a restructuring of aid. That means sending a greater proportion of the current pool of international assistance to the poorest countries, and directing a greater proportion within countries to basic social sectors. The 20/20 initiative of UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, the UN Population Fund and the World Health Organization calls for devoting 20 per cent of development assistance and 20 per cent of national budgets to meeting basic human needs.

DU: 20/20 drew some fire from the Group of 77 developing countries at the Social Summit PrepComs.

Jolly: I think that was caused by a misreading of the proposal. We explain in a new booklet that 20/20 is not proposed as a new form of conditionality; that it sets a worldwide target of 20 per cent of aid to social services, rather than a mechanistic target for each country. In response to another concern, we state that 20/20 should not diminish the longstanding donor commitment to the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP devoted to foreign aid. Even so, we cannot have much optimism today for short-term increases. For now, 20/20 is virtually the only show in town for generating the resources to meet the goals of the Children's Summit, the Population Conference and the Social Summit. ■

1995: International Year for Tolerance

To further the International Year for Tolerance (1995), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is organizing a series of regional and international meetings to promote the spirit of open-mindedness, cooperation and peace necessary in an increasingly interdependent world community. A declaration incorporating discussion from these meetings will be presented for adoption to the United Nations General Assembly and will serve as the preface to a follow-up action plan.

In accord with recommendations issued at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria, UNESCO is producing information materials and teaching guides on international human rights instruments and the defense of people belonging to vulnerable groups. There is also a media campaign to promote tolerance and the underlying reasons for the International Year, with a primary focus on reaching young people.

Two regional seminars were held in September 1994: on "Tolerance in Latin America" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and on "Democracy and Tolerance", in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Upcoming seminars and conferences are listed on page 8. ■

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Summit to set poverty deadines

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drinking water and adequate nutrition, shelter, education and health care. The United Nations Development Programme has estimated that 1.3 billion people — a fifth of humanity — live in absolute poverty, with the largest concentrations in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Under-Secretary-General Nitin Desai of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development said that a function of the Copenhagen conference will be to "strengthen the political will" to translate the pledge to reduce poverty into action.

The Summit will run from 6 to 12 March. Well over a hundred heads of State or Government are expected to attend, which could exceed the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro as history's largest gathering of world leaders. Most of the participating world leaders will be in Copenhagen on 11 and 12 March.

Several key areas of disagreement remain: where the money for social development will come from, especially at a time of economic austerity in many developed countries; whether a formula can be found to eliminate external debt of developing countries; and how Governments, the United Nations system and civil society will join to implement Summit agreements. Negotiations on these issues are expected to resume in Copenhagen.

Summit delegates are expected to consider a proposal, made during the January PrepCom, for an additional commitment pledging quality education for all.

There may also be re-consideration of the so-called 20/20 initiative, under which industrialized countries would earmark 20 per cent of their foreign aid for social development goals (up from the current average of 10 per cent), and developing countries would allocate 20 per cent of their national budgets to the same end (up from 13 per cent). This proposal failed to gain full endorsement at the Social Summit PrepComs (see interview with Richard Jolly, page 5).

But the diplomatic breakthroughs outnumbered the remaining sticking points, conference organizers said.

The draft Summit agreement would commit Governments to:

- Promote "the goal of full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies", and to make it possible for "all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work".
- Promote social integration "by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, and on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons".
- "Increase significantly and/or utilize more efficiently the resources allocated to social development".
- Ensure that structural adjustment programmes — conditions for loans extended to countries in financial difficulty by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund — "include social development goals", particularly measures to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and enhance social integration.
- Give special attention to the desperate plight of Africa and the least developed countries by "accelerating" their economic, social and human resource development.
- Achieve "equality and equity between women and men", recognizing the indispensable role of women in development, and the importance of "recognizing and enhancing the leadership roles of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life and in development".

"This is the first time in history that we have a political acknowledgement that the eradication of poverty has to be the first priority of any society."

— Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile
Chairman of the Summit Preparatory Committee

The Copenhagen Summit is likely to rival or exceed the Earth Summit in terms of attendance by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as by heads of state. More than 2,400 NGOs have United Nations authorization to participate in Copenhagen, compared to 1,500 NGOs accredited in Rio.

NGO participation

Diplomats and United Nations officials said the degree of NGO participation in the PrepComs has been intensive, and that a large number of NGO suggestions had found their way onto the Summit agenda.

Agreement on the Draft Declaration and Programme of Action marked the end of a series of preparatory talks over almost exactly a year. There were two other two-week Preparatory Commitee meetings in New York, in January and August 1994, and a week of informal inter-sessional consultations last October.

Conference organizers, many of whom had slept little during the the final two weeks of virtually round-the-clock talks in New York, expressed relief at the extent of consensus on the draft Summit agenda.

"This was something that did not appear so feasible when we began this process," Ambassador Somavia told journalists. ■

GA Focus

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countries (G-77), advised caution on such restructuring, which might give inordinate powers to a small group of countries.

The G-77 countries expressed the view that more work is needed on "hard" economic issues such as trade, financial flows, technology transfers, development assistance and debt. On the other hand, Mr. Horiguchi noted that while "the developed countries value the Secretary-General's report", they cannot support its proposals for an international conference on financing development, outright cancellation of some countries' external debt and interim goals for reaching the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product of developed countries devoted to official development assistance (ODA).

Countries from the North and the South echoed the Secretary-General's call for greater coordination of UN policies with those of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the new World Trade Organization (WTO).

Working group to set Agenda

The Assembly assigned an open-ended working group to come up with further recommendations concerning the UN's development agenda. The task of the working group, which began meeting in mid-February, "will be less a matter of discussing development strategies than of articulating concrete action with a view to responding to the major themes put forward in the Secretary-General's report", Mr. Essy told *Development Update*.

Other main outcomes of the three-month General Assembly session in the development arena included:

- For the first time in three years, the Assembly adopted without a vote a resolution on the foreign debt of developing countries. It recognizes that a durable solution for the poorest and most heavily indebted countries requires more favourable terms of relief than have so far been granted, including outright reductions in debt stock. It also voices concern about the nigh debt and debt-service obligations of middle-income countries.
- An Assembly resolution called for improved economic and technical cooperation with economies in transition (from centralized economies), as well as with developing countries. Concern was expressed that assistance to the former should not divert resources allocated to the poorest countries.
- In endorsing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, the Assembly acknowledged that factors such as population, health, education and the empowerment of women are closely interconnected and need to be acted on through an integrated approach. It was decided to upgrade the work of the Population Commission, which is to be renamed the Commission on Population and Development. The Commission will present its proposals for restructuring to ECOSOC at its June-July session. The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to report on the possible convening of a UN conference on international migration, as suggested at the ICPD.
- The Secretary-General was also asked to present a comprehensive overview of South/South cooperation — mutual assistance among developing countries and integration of their economies — along with recommendations on measures to strengthen it, including the proposal to convene a UN conference on this issue. An expert group will be convened in late July 1995 to assess the feasibility and value of such a conference.
- The General Assembly decided that a World Conference on Administration and Development will be held in 1997. Political and economic upheavals of recent years place new responsibilities on public administrations, especially in developing infrastructure, the Assembly agreed.
- Reporting for the first time since his 1993 appointment, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, Mr. Maurice Glele-Ahanhanzo (Benin) said that these phenomena persist and are taking increasingly violent forms. "With the onset of recession, the increasingly impoverished South has found no solution other than emigration", he said. He added that economic difficulties have reawakened and exacerbated nationalism, leading to a "scapegoat syndrome" under which foreigners and migrants are blamed for unemployment.

Throughout the session, developing countries voiced concern over falling levels of development assistance and their lack of an effective voice in the world's economic system, particularly in the IMF, the World Bank and the Uruguay Round of the international trade negotiations held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and their implementation in the new WTO. "If we are not heard, it is because we are not listened to", commented Mr. Cissé.

Industrialized countries tended to stress that development is a national responsibility and that market forces more than any other factor will determine rates of economic growth; their representatives expressed unwillingness to dig into strapped national budgets for increased contributions. "Our focus," said Mr. Horiguchi, "should be on how to make the best use of available resources." ■

Calendar 1995–1996

1995

6 - 12 March
World Summit for Social Development
(Copenhagen, Denmark)

13 - 14 March
NGO consultations and meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women
(New York, USA)

15 March - 4 April
Commission on the Status of Women, 39th session/Preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women
(New York, USA)

17 - 22 March
Regional seminar on "Tolerance in Asia and the Pacific"
(New Delhi, India)

27 March - 2 April
Regional seminar on "The Problems of Promoting Tolerance in the African Region"
(Nairobi, Kenya)

2 - 5 April
Habitat II international conference on "Best Practices in Improving Living Environments"
(Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

20 - 21 April
Regional conference on "Pedagogy for Tolerance in the Mediterranean Region"
(Carthage, Tunisia)

22 May
Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, special session
(New York, USA)

24 April - 5 May
Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II
(Nairobi, Kenya)

25 April - 1 May
Fifteenth Session of the Commission on Human Settlements
(Nairobi, Kenya)

26 - 28 April
International Global Diversity Conference, to mark the UN 50th Anniversary and the International Year of Tolerance
(Sydney, Australia)

29 April - 8 May
Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
(Cairo, Egypt)

20 - 25 June
International seminar on "Tolerance for Mutual Understanding and Peace"
(Yakoutsk, Russian Federation)

4 - 15 September
Fourth World Conference on Women
(Beijing, China)

October
International colloquium on "The Problems of Promoting Tolerance"
(Istanbul, Turkey)

24 October
United Nations 50th Anniversary

1996

January
Third Preparatory Committee Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II
(New York, USA)

3 - 14 June
United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II
(Istanbul, Turkey)

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